

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: October 23, 2006

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on October 13, 2006

FROM: Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Mary A. Gade
Regional Administrator

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Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Record of Decision Signed, Lake Calumet Cluster Site, Chicago, Illinois

On September 26, 2006, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 5 concurred on a State-lead Record of Decision (ROD) for the Lake Calumet Cluster site located in Chicago, Illinois. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) utilized U.S. EPA's presumptive remedy guidance for municipal landfills. This successful collaboration between Illinois EPA, U.S. EPA, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and the City of Chicago fast-tracked the project.

The selected remedy includes a gas collection system, a grading layer, a low-permeability clay cover, a drainage layer, storm water management, a vegetative layer, and a monitoring program, as well as a restrictive covenant that prohibits the use of groundwater on site for potable uses. This landfill cap complies with Illinois Part 724 landfill closure requirements. The gas collection layer will utilize no-cost slag material from the surrounding steel industry. The grading layer and cap will capitalize on the availability of an estimated 1.2 million cubic yards of clay and soil material from IDOT's Dan Ryan Expressway Expansion Project.

This project is fully funded by the State of Illinois. IDOT was planning to dispose of the clay and soil from the expressway expansion project at a cost of \$23 million. Instead, Illinois EPA accepts the material from IDOT for use at the Cluster Site and other Illinois EPA projects, and receives \$19 per cubic yard (amounting to \$19 million). The \$19 million funds the design, construction, and operation and maintenance at the site.

Contacts: Kyle Rogers (312-886-1995)
Alan Walts (312-353-8894)

Five-Year Review Report Completed, Auto Ion Chemicals, Inc., Superfund Site, Kalamazoo, Michigan

On September 22, 2006, a Five-Year Review Report was completed for the Auto Ion Chemicals, Inc., Superfund site in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The site was formerly occupied by a plating operation, and contaminants of concern included heavy metals and chlorinated organic compounds in soil and groundwater. This recent five-year review report confirms that the Auto Ion remedy remains protective of human health and the environment. Follow-up actions in the report, including proper application of institutional controls for site property use, will ensure that the cleanup continues to be protective.

The first operable unit for the Auto Ion remedy included removal of over 24,000 tons of soil. The second operable unit consists of evaluating each round of groundwater monitoring results based on alternate concentration limits (ACLs), upgradient groundwater concentrations, and surface water quality criteria. To date, none of the contaminants in groundwater have been observed at levels that have raised concerns about the potential for adverse impacts to the Kalamazoo River, which is adjacent to the site.

Contact: Mary Tierney (312-886-4785)

Five-Year Review Report Completed, LeHillier/Mankato Superfund Site, Mankato, Minnesota

On September 27, 2006, the third Five-Year Review Report for the LeHillier/Mankato Superfund site in Mankato, Minnesota, was completed by the State of Minnesota. The final report confirms that the remedy at the site remains protective of human health and the environment; however, follow-up actions, including proper application of institutional controls for site property use, will be taken to ensure that the cleanup continues to be protective.

The LeHillier/Mankato remedy included installation of a community water supply system, and pumping and treating groundwater for eight years using seven extraction wells. Operation and maintenance is ongoing. The site is several square miles in area and was the location of a number of unpermitted waste disposal sites. The main contaminant of concern in groundwater is trichloroethene.

Contact: Mary Tierney (312-886-4785)

First Five Year Review Report Signed, Wash King Laundry Superfund Site, Baldwin, Michigan

On September 28, 2006, the Region 5 Superfund Division Director signed a Five-Year Review Report for the Wash King Laundry Superfund site, Baldwin, Michigan. The report explored major site developments over the past five years and assessed whether implemented remedies are protective of human health and the environment. The review found that the remedy is functioning as intended and is protective.

At Wash King Laundry, past releases of tetrachloroethene and trichloroethene into site soils and groundwater are being addressed through soil vapor extraction and groundwater pumping. Volatile contaminants are being removed from groundwater by air stripping. Activated carbon traps potential emissions from both the soil vapor extraction and groundwater pump and treat systems. The report findings indicate that a significant portion of contaminant mass has been successfully removed.

Key recommendations to ensure protectiveness include: (1) development of an Institutional Controls Plan, (2) installation of an improved surge control protection to safeguard treatment components during thunderstorm activity, and (3) improvement of downgradient groundwater extraction well capture zone efficiency.

Contact: Russell Hart (312-886-4844)

Response Investigation Meeting, Feddler Landfill, Lowell, Indiana

On October 11, 2006, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Bill Simes met with Lake County Commissioner Gerry Scheub and representatives of the Lake County Solid Waste Management District regarding problems at Feddler landfill. The County had hired a contractor to study the landfill and a draft report of their findings indicates very high levels of hydrogen cyanide and acrylonitrile in the breathing zone. The report indicates that this was caused

by 500 buried drums. Discussions included U.S. EPA investigating the potential threat these levels might pose, and working with the County and State in dealing with this problem. OSC Bill Simes will conduct further field investigation the week of October 16, 2006.

Contact: William Simes (312-886-3337)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

BioWatch Tabletop Exercise, Chicago, Illinois

On October 5, 2006, members of the Emergency Response program participated in a BioWatch tabletop exercise that was conducted with the City of Chicago and several State and Federal agencies.

The scenario involved a biological agent release at a local transportation facility. Discussions included the public health concerns related to the release, as well as sampling and decontamination of affected locations. The exercise was supported by the Department of Homeland Security.

Contact: Len Zintak (312-886-4246)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Medallion of Appreciation for Outstanding Services at Orleans Pad, Louisiana

On September 26, 2006, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted an inspection of the Orleans Pad managed by Frank Boenzi. The facility covered two acres with many components, functions, and duties. The Orleans Pad served the St. Bernard and Orleans Parishes. Hundreds of vehicles delivered from 4,000 to 10,000 items each day. The items accepted included household hazardous waste, weapons, ammunition, propane tanks, gasoline tanks, cylinders, fuels, oils, a variety of chemicals, and pesticides. The inspection and tour of the pad was conducted by a general, who was accompanied by the Incident Commander, Field Supervisor, and others. The general was very impressed by the overall operation of the facility, praising its organized, orderly, clean, safe, and effective operation. In recognition of the excellent operation of the facility, the general bestowed a medallion of appreciation for outstanding services to the

Incident Commander, Field Supervisor, Mr. Boenzi, and one other U.S. EPA employee.

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